विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् ने निम्नलिखित देशों में सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोले हैं : जार्जटाउन (गयाना), पारामारिबो (सूरीनाम), पोर्ट लुई (मारीशस), जकार्ता (इन्डोनेशिया मास्को (रूस), बर्लिन (जर्मनी), काहिरा (मिस्र), लन्दन (यू०के०), ताशकन्द (उजबेकिस्तान), और अल्माती (कजाकस्तान),

वित्तीय कठिनाइयों की वजह से नये सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव अभी विचाराधीन नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ) परिषद् सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत हिन्दी पढ़ाने के लिए विदेशों में विश्वविद्यालयों और संस्थाओं में अतिथि प्राध्यापक भेजता है।

इसके अलावा, यह परिषद् मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (शिक्षा विभाग) की ओर से विदेशों में हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार का काम भी देखता है।

जार्जटाउन, पारामारिबो और पोर्ट ऑफ स्पेन में चार प्रोफेसर नियुक्त किए गए हैं। परीक्षायें सम्बद्ध विश्वविद्यालयों और संस्थाओं द्वारा ली जाती हैं। हिन्दी प्रोफेसरों का ब्यौरा नीचे लिखे अनुसार है :

(1) विश्वविद्यालयों/संस्थाओं को सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत भेजे गए प्रोफेसर बेलजियम, बल्गारिया, चीन, फिनलैण्ड, पौलैण्ड (2 प्रोफेसर) रूस, दक्षिण कोरिया, हंगरी टर्की और रोमानिया।

(2) विदेशों में हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार के अन्तर्गत गयाना, सूरीनाम, ट्रिनिडाड एवं टोबागो (2 प्रोफेसर)।

कार्यकाल समाप्त होने पर ये सभी पद तात्कालिक आधार पर भरे जा रहे हैं जिससे कि पाठ्यक्रम की निरन्तरता बनी रहे।

Achievements of ICCR

1132. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR);

(b) if so, what are the details of its activities during each of the last three years;

(c) what improvements have so far been made in its functioning;

(d) the number of festivals or cultural functions held abroad by ICCR or in which ICCR participated during each of the three years and what are their details and the amount of expenditure incurred on each of these festivals/functions;

(e) to what extent ICCR has been successful to identify and market Indian culture and art abroad and what are the details in this regard; and

(f) what are the details of festivals/functions proposed to be organised during the current year and the names of places and countries where these are likely to be held and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SAARC Finance Ministers' meeting

1133. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mutual mistrust and varying security perceptions among the SAARC member countries figured at the SAARC Finance Ministers' Meeting held in Dhaka last month primarily to deal with economic issues;

(b) if so, how far this mistrust is blocking SAARC growth particularly the

achievements of the goal of removing poverty set by the Finance Ministers' Meeting; and

(c) what is Government's perception about the utility of SAARC forum for discussion on matters of mutual trust and economic issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The SAARC Finance/Planning Ministers met in Dhaka on 10-11 July, 1994, primarily to discuss issues relating to poverty alleviation/eradication and also review the trends in the global economic situation, the economic situation in the South Asian countries and the impact on the region of the emergence of regional trading blocks around the world. During these meetings of the SAARC Finance/Planning Ministers, there were no discussions on issue relating to mutual mistrust and varying security perceptions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India is fully committed to regional cooperation and utilising the SAARC Forum for cooperation in the core economic areas, so as to improve mutual respect and trust.

Hostile Labour MEP's Bode ill for India

1134. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the newsitem captioned "Hostile Labour MEP's bode ill for India" appearing in the 'The Observer of Business and Politics' New Delhi, dated, 13th July, 1994;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what precautionary and timely steps are being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of constiutency pressures which may influence the public positions of some members of the newly elected European Parliament on issues of concern to India. Our High Commission in London and other Missions in countries of the European Union are in regular contact with these MEPs to apprise them of the facts related to J&K and problems posed by externally sponsored terrorism, and to encourage them to take an objective stand.

Asian security forum

1135. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is actively seeking membership of the new Asian security forum being launched by the ASEAN block and other South-east Asian countries along with their Western allies;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(c) how far joining this new regional security forum will be useful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) India has recently indicated to the ASEAN member-countries its interest in joining the ASEAN Regional Forum.

(b) The general issue relating to admission of new members to the Forum is yet to be considered.

(c) Joining the ARF will enable India to participate in discussions on political and security issues of the region that are of mutual concern.

Recovery of Loan from SAARC member countries

1136. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts for the recovery of loans provided to the SAARC Member-countries;